

REMARKS

Claims 4-8 and 11 remain in this application, and claims 1-3 and 9-10 are now canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), along with claim 8, as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,095,101 to Pedersen. Reconsideration is requested. Claim 4 is amended above to incorporate limitations previously appearing in claims 9 and 10. The features reflected by these limitations provide the compression temperature, energy, and efficiency advantages discussed, for example, in paragraphs 0007-0015 of the substitute specification. Nothing in the Pedersen patent disclosure suggests the acts or operations of heating hydrogen to at least 500°C prior to its introduction into an engine and introducing the heated hydrogen into the engine at between 100 and 500 bar as claim 4 now requires. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 4 based on the Pedersen patent has been overcome.

Independent claim 4 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), along with claims 8-9, as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,403,167 to Kobayashi et al. Reconsideration is requested. While the Examiner's comments in section 4 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action are noted, nothing in the Kobayashi et al. patent disclosure suggests the acts or operations of both heating hydrogen to at least 500°C prior to its introduction into an engine and introducing the heated hydrogen into the engine at between 100 and 500 bar as claim 4 now requires. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 4 based on the Kobayashi et al. patent has also been overcome.

Each of U.S. Patents 4,333,424 to McFee, 6,575,138 to Welch et al., and 6,557,535 to Stone is relied on as a secondary reference in the rejections set forth in sections 7-18 on pages 3-6 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the disclosures provided by these patents both fail to suggest modifying the Pedersen method such that it would meet the limitations discussed above and fail to suggest modifying the Kobayashi et al. pump such that it performs a hydrogen introduction process including the limitations discussed above. As such, it is further submitted that claim 4 above is patentable. The rest of the claims in this application depend on claim 4 and are considered patentable as well.

This application should now be allowable for reasons discussed above. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038724.56177US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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